

NR 12565

May 7, 1974

S 7314

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT—  
APPROVAL OF BILLS

Messages in writing from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Heiting, one of his secretaries, and he announced that on May 6, 1974, the President had approved and signed the following act:

S. 2770. An act to amend chapter 5 of title 37, United States Code, to revise the special pay structure relating to medical officers of the uniformed services.

EXECUTIVE PAY INCREASES—MES-  
SAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. McClure) laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States, transmitting a draft of proposed legislation, which with the accompanying papers, was referred to the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service. The message is as follows:

To the Congress of the United States:

The recent rejection by the Congress of higher salaries for the Executive, Legislative and Judicial branches has created a problem within the Government that needs to be quickly remedied.

Under the law, career officials in the General Schedule—"GS employees" as they are called—cannot be paid a higher salary than anyone on the lowest rung, Level V, of the Executive Schedule.

For the past five years, the salaries of those in the Executive Schedule have been frozen, and with the recent action by the Congress, will continue to be frozen until 1977.

During this same period, in actions approved by the Congress, the salaries of those in the General Schedule have been gradually increasing.

The result now is that GS employees in the top three levels of the General Schedule—GS 16s, 17s, and 18s—are almost all paid the same salary, \$36,000, which is the same salary as a Level V employee on the Executive Schedule.

For the 10,000 careerists in the top levels of the General Schedule, this salary bunching or "pay compression" denies them fair increases in compensation, robs them of the incentive to seek promotions, and adversely affects their future annuities. Already it is creating greater difficulties in recruiting and retaining top-flight career personnel, and it could lead to a serious decline in the quality of the managerial work force.

To correct this problem, I am transmitting to the Congress today legislation which would raise the salaries of those in the lowest three levels of the Executive Schedule and thereby permit a significant increase in the salaries of those in the highest grades of the General Schedule.

This proposal would raise the salaries of Level V, IV and III employees to \$41,000, \$41,500 and \$42,000 respectively. No increase would be provided for any Federal official now making more than \$42,000.

By virtue of this reform, there would be a significant reduction in pay compression for top-level GS employees whose salaries could continue to increase in a way that they deserve.

For the sake of the career employees within the Government and the quality of management which we need within the Executive Branch, I urge the Congress to give this proposal its swift approval.

RICHARD NIXON.

The White House, May 7, 1974.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session, the Presiding Officer (Mr. McClure) laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations, which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of Senate proceedings.)

DEFENSE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION AUTHORIZATIONS, 1974

Mr. SYMINGTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 12565.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SYMINGTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 12565.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill will be stated by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

H.R. 12565, a bill to authorize appropriations during the fiscal year 1974 for procurement of aircraft, missiles, naval vessels, tracked combat vehicles, and other weapons and research, development, test and evaluation for the Armed Forces, and to authorize construction at certain installations, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SYMINGTON. Mr. President, I move that all after the enacting clause of H.R. 12565 be stricken and that the text of S. 2999, as passed by the Senate on May 6, 1974 be inserted in lieu thereof.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion was agreed to.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed, and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill (H.R. 12565) was read the third time and passed.

Mr. SYMINGTON. Mr. President, I move that the Senate insist upon its amendment to H.R. 12565 and request a conference with the House of Representatives on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and that the Chair be authorized to appoint the conferees on the part of the Senate.

The motion was agreed to; and the Presiding Officer appointed Messrs. STENNIS, SYMINGTON, JACKSON, THURMOND, and TOWER conferees on the part of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator request that the bill be indefinitely postponed?

Mr. SYMINGTON. I do, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SYMINGTON. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The second assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ROBERT C. BYRD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. ROBERT C. BYRD. Mr. President, may I inquire of the Chair whether or not there are any special orders for the recognition of Senators on tomorrow?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There are none.

Mr. ROBERT C. BYRD. There are none. I thank the Chair.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT TO  
11:30 A.M.

Mr. ROBERT C. BYRD. That being the case, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate competes its business, it stand in adjournment until the hour of 11:30 a.m. tomorrow.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR TRANSACTION OF ROUTINE MORNING BUSINESS AND CONSIDERATION OF S. 3267 TOMORROW

Mr. ROBERT C. BYRD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that after the two leaders or their designees have been recognized under the standing order tomorrow, there be a period for the transaction of routine morning business of not to exceed 30 minutes, with statements limited therein to 5 minutes each, and that at the conclusion of routine morning business, the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar Order No. 758, S. 3267, a bill to provide standby emergency authority to assure that the essential energy needs of the United States are met.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. ROBERT C. BYRD. Mr. President, I believe I have already gotten consent that at some point tomorrow, not later than 3 p.m., the leadership be authorized to call up one of the education bills. Am I correct, I ask the Chair?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Either bill; that is correct.

Mr. ROBERT C. BYRD. I thank the Chair.

ORDER FOR RECOGNITION OF SENATOR PROXIMITY ON FRIDAY,  
May 10

Mr. ROBERT C. BYRD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on Friday, after the two leaders or their designees have been recognized under the standing